GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:390
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
COMBATING DEMENTIA
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons suffering from various forms of Dementia are on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has any specific programmes to help such persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether 2006 is the `Centenary year of Alzheimer`s Disease;

(f) if so, whether the Government is undertaking any projects to mark this occasion;

(g) if so, whether the Government is considering to include Alzheimer`s and Related Disorders Society of India in the National Council for Older Persons (NCOP); and

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 390 FOR 23RD AUGUST, 2006

There has been increase in the life expectancy of people at birth from 59.70 years in 1991 to about 64 years at present on account of better quality of medical care. Consequently, there has been some increase in the old age problems including dementia due to increase in the proportion of elderly persons in the country.

Government has been taking active interest in the Senior Citizens` health care and has initiated steps to set up separate OPDs/Wards etc. for elderly in the Government Hospitals.

The management of dementia, at present, is addressed under the Mental Health Programme. National Mental Health Programme was started in the year 1987. Re-strategised National Mental Health Programme was launched in October, 2003, with District Mental Health Programme as one of its main components, whereby community mental health services are made available at the grass root level.

As Alzheimer disease was first described in 1906, 2006 is the Centenary Year of the disease. There is no proposal to mark the occasion.

There is no proposal, presently under consideration of the Government to expand the National Council for Older Persons.